

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants thank the Examiner for her most recent Office Action dated February 8, 2007. This case is amended and includes explanatory remarks.

Claims 16 & 17 stand rejected in the outstanding Office Action and dependent Claims 18, 19, & 22 are objected to. All remaining pending Claims (Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 20-21) are allowed.

Claims 16 and 17 are hereby cancelled and are no longer at issue here.

Claim 18 is amended to independent form to clarify certain patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 18-22 are now pending in this application. Entry of these amendments and remarks are respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the Application based on these Amendments and Remarks is also requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huang* (U.S. Patent No. 6,353,257) in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA).

Accordingly Claims 16-17 are cancelled. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection is now moot. Accordingly, applicants request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn as to Claims 16-17.

Claim Objections:

Claims 18-19 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Claim 18 is amended to include all limitations of base and intervening Claims 16 and 17. As a result it is respectfully submitted that Claim 18, as now amended, is allowable over the art of record in this case. Additionally, it is believed that dependent Claims

19 and 22, which depend on now allowable Claim 18, are also allowable (for at least the same reasons as submitted with respect to Claim 18). Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the pending objections to Claims 18-19 and 22 be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-21 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Additionally, based on the amendments to Claim 18, the applicants respectfully submit that Claims 18-19 and 22 are now allowable for at least the reasons expressed above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-21 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the applicants request withdrawal of all pending rejections and request reconsideration of the pending application and prompt passage to issuance. As an aside, the applicants clarify that any lack of response to any of the issues raised by the Examiner is not an admission by the applicant as to the accuracy of the Examiner's assertions with respect to such issues. Accordingly, applicant's specifically reserve the right to respond to such issues at a later time during the prosecution of the present application, should such a need arise.

As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the applicants representative to discuss any matters pertaining to this case. Should the Examiner wish to contact the undersigned for any reason, the telephone numbers set out below can be used.

Additionally, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. NSC1P295).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Kalinski II', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francis T. Kalinski II
Registration No. 44,177

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
(408) 255-8001